



## Dear Farm to Heart Supporters,

Enclosed is our 2022 Impact Report. We launched our 3-year pilot program in 2019 and it has been an overwhelming success. We're so proud that Farm to Heart (F2H) has infused inspiration and hope in all sectors of the local food system, from eaters to growers, chefs to educators, and supporters young and old. Our F2H team knows now, unequivocally, our work as food stewards is intricately rooted in a mission for food sovereignty.

*Thank you! We wouldn't be here today without you.*

The unique F2H model that you supported enabled us to build relationships with a variety of community members we never could have imagined. Equally important, many of you have expressed your gratitude that we created this special opportunity to engage in food system work. We hear over and over our supporters love F2H because they trust us and are 100% confident their funds are used to help both farmers and families.

F2H has been a life changing experience, and not just for our families. Before F2H, our on-farm food loss (amount of overproduction we had to grow to support fickle wholesale markets) was over 31%. The first year we shifted to growing for F2H, our food loss dropped to 6.5%. Just as importantly, the pride in our work, as well as the social connections we built, became a source of strength and renewing power. We went from having 'market channels' and 'business transactions' to having a resilient network of advocates and relationships full of high value reciprocity, choice, and gratitude.

As we begin now to plan the next three years, here is what I know to be true about F2H:

### *We Believe in Small*

Time and again, we have witnessed how small acts of kindness, careful work done with intention, creative solutions tailored to fit the unique communities we serve creates ripple effects that have the power to change everything. Small is our foundational wellspring, the source of our success, and the way we collectively choose to show up. Tenacity- every day, in every way. We aren't focused on big, we're focused on better.

### *We Believe in Kinship*

Our unique model is built on partnerships that reconnect plants to people, soil to supporters, farmers to families. We focus on stewarding these connections to enrich the long-term health and wellbeing of our entire community. Food is our common ground.

In 2023 we want to expand our reach to support a growing network of food stewards, nurturing relationships to support a long-term sustainable funding model, and in partnership with Clark Public Health, continuing to listening to our community. What do our families and farmers need and how can we adapt our work to guarantee we continue to build an inclusive program that respects the right to sufficient, healthy, and culturally appropriate food?

Systemic inequities exist in our community. Families a mere eight miles from our farm cannot afford nor access the incredible bounty of food produced in our region. That is what compels us to build this new model - one that honors families and centers farmers by providing agency and equitably sharing risk.

There are fantastic organizations focused on hunger relief, and others on assisting farmers. It's easy to want to isolate problems and try to fix them one by one. But nature doesn't work in a vacuum, and neither do we. F2H isn't trying to fix a broken food system. We're nurturing an entirely new system, one conscientious choice, one carrot, one land steward, one caring community member, one donor, and one kid at a time.

I hope you'll join us,

*April*

April Thatcher  
Farmer, April Joy Farm  
Co-Founder, Farm to Heart



APRIL JOY FARM



"We are fortunate to know such wonderful, generous and caring people. We are honored to make this donation to help carry your important work forward."

F2H SUPPORTER



# 2022 IMPACT REPORT



"It has changed the way we eat, purchase and store our food. Our family comes together to choose what foods we get, try new flavors and recipes. I'm very thankful for April Joy Farm."

F2H CSA MEMBER

*Perfect Kind*  
*Extraordinarily special*  
**Life Changing**  
*Healthy Opportunity Variety*

-Words used to describe F2H

"Thank you for being such a positive force in the community."

F2H SUPPORTER

"The farmers are very beautiful people, the whole team is very kind."

F2H CSA MEMBER

"I'm really grateful to be providing you and your community with peaches."

F2H FARMER



L to R: Lincoln FCRC Coordinator Judit Torrents, Farmer April, Fruit Valley Elementary FCRC Coordinator Staci Boehlke.



100%

of current members want to participate 2023



22

Average number of weekly share options available to families



\$51,973

Dollars infused into our regional food system

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

F2H volunteers partnered with WSU Extension Clark County SNAP-Ed and a local chef to host 11 bilingual cooking demos while also producing a multi-lingual F2H fresh produce cookbook

Applied for state and federal grant opportunities to support program sustainability, and received a WSDA Food Assistance Resiliency Award for 2022-2023

Expanded our Farmer network to 9 regional producers that increased variety and options for F2H families to include nuts, legumes, grains, and chicken while adding 5 winter food distribution weeks

Listened to our F2H families through multiple evaluation strategies including a focus group with Spanish-speaking participants to gather robust feedback, improve our program, and document the impact of F2H.

Directly supported 108 family members in our community!

## WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2023



Strengthen F2H Farmer Network to support more farmers



Build infrastructure to support year-round distribution



Evaluate the benefits and comprehensive impact to the regional food system



Diversify to support more families with expanded choices for a fully balanced diet



Work toward long-term program sustainability by expanding partnerships



The Farm to Heart Initiative is a partnership between April Joy Farm and the Family Community Resource Centers (FCRCs) of Lincoln and Fruit Valley Elementary Schools.

Learn more:

<https://www.apriljoyfarm.com/farm-to-heart-initiative>



APRIL JOY FARM

